


When Is Comprehension Instruction Most Effective?



Comprehension instruction is most effective when teachers:

- Model and think aloud their own use of the strategies
- Provide explicit and in-depth instruction and practice of strategies
- Discuss explicitly how each strategy helps readers to better comprehend text
- Make connections between each new strategy and what the reader already knows
- Gradually release responsibility for the use of strategies to students
- Build in time for actual text reading and guided practice in strategy application by the students
- Show students how each strategy applies to other texts, genres, formats, disciplines, and contexts
- Help students notice how strategies intersect and work in conjunction with one another

LDH067002 (Harvey & Gough, 2000) 7

What Are the Challenges for Teachers?



The challenges are for teachers to:

- Understand, choose, model, and use varied comprehension strategies
- Design lessons requiring active participation
- Match strategy selections to the reading purpose, the text, the readers' instructional needs, the activities, and the context
- Provide multiple opportunities for purposeful and active strategy application and practice
- Take time to observe and confer directly with students about their strategy learning and keep records of those observations and conferences
- Provide ongoing assessment with the understanding that both assessment and improvement take time
- Motivate students with energy, support, and positive reinforcement

LDH067002 8

ASSESSMENT

Knowledge, application, and engagement are all critical outcomes of reading with comprehension; assessments that reflect all three of these outcomes are needed (p. xix)

Research has shown that improving reading comprehension and preventing poor reading outcomes require measuring outcomes at every stage of learning. (p. xii)

(Executive Summary of the RAND Report, 2002)

LDH067002 9
